

# Committee on Ways and Means

## GOP Plan Offers Additional Relief to Unemployed Workers

*May 2003*

**H.R. 2185 is a straight seven-month extension of the current Federal temporary extended unemployment compensation (TEUC) program.**

- This bill extends TEUC a second time. Following the September 11, 2001 attacks, Congress created the program in March 2002. It was extended in January 2003.
- Under this extension, workers exhausting regular State unemployment benefits through as late as December 2003 could collect Federal extended benefits. Those extended benefits would be available through as late as March 2004.
- Workers who exhaust 26 weeks of regular State benefits would be eligible for 13 weeks of Federal extended benefits *in all States*, for 39 weeks of total benefits.
- Workers who exhaust 26 weeks of regular State benefits would be eligible for 26 weeks of Federal extended benefits *in certain "high unemployment" States*, for a total of 52 weeks of benefits. (Many also will qualify for an added 13 weeks of benefits under the permanent law Federal-State extended benefits program, for 65 weeks of total benefits in such States.)
  - "High unemployment" is defined the same as in the current TEUC program. Six States qualify today: AK, CT, MA, OR, PA, WA.
- The extension includes a "phaseout" so there is no "cliff" in late December 2003.

**An estimated 2.5 million unemployed workers will receive extra help through this extension, on top of the 5 million workers who already have received Federal extended benefits in 2002 and 2003.**

**This extension provides about \$7 billion in added Federal extended benefits, on top of the \$16 billion in assistance already provided under the TEUC program.**